UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 05014BZ

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AIT-02 ARC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-14 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 USIA-06 /101 W

R 070422Z JUL 79
FM AIT TAIPEI
TO AIT WASHDC

P790145-0600

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TAIPEI 01366

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: ATW, US, MASS
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARMS SALE TO TAIWAN

1. ALL JULY 4TH AFTERNOON PAPERS AND ALL MAJOR JULY 5TH MORNING NEWSPAPERS PROMINENTLY REPORTED THE PENTAGON STORY OF THE SALE OF $240 MILLION WORTH OF ARMS TO TAIWAN, PRIMARILY BASED ON THE AP STORY ELABORATING ON THE STORY WITH DETAILS ON THE ARMS (48 F-5E FIGHTERS, MAVERICK MISSILES). SOME OF THE SPECIAL TAIWAN CORRESPONDENTS IN WASHINGTON QUOTED DOD OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY NOT OPPOSE THESE SALES AND THAT THE ARMS WOULD STRENGTHEN TAIWAN'S AIR DEFENSE, THUS HELPING MAINTAIN TAIWAN'S SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE AREA.

2. ONE SPECIAL REPORT, CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO, CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH KONSIN SHAW IN WHICH HE STATES THAT THE DOD ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE REPORT TO THE CONGRESS HAD BEEN DELAYED UNTIL THE SIGNING OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER. SHAW WENT ON TO SPEAK OF THE OTHER ACTIONS WHICH COULD NOW BE TAKEN BECAUSE OF THE SIGNING OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER: PROTECTION FOR CCNAA PREMISES, OTHER ASPECTS OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, CCNAA DIRECT CONTACTS WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

3. A POLEMICAL ARTICLE IN THE LIEN HO PAO WAS ENTITLED: "IS THE U.S. SINCERE IN SELLING US ARMS?" THE WRITER, ALICE PAO, NOTED THAT WHAT THE U.S. HAS APPROVED IS FAR FROM THE TYPES OF WEAPONS WHICH TAIWAN DESIRES. TAIWAN'S CONCERN IS THEREFORE ABOUT WHETHER THE U.S. WILL KEEP ITS PROMISE TO PROVIDE DEFENSIVE WEAPONS IN 1980 AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE MDT. PAO ALSO REFERS TO THE REMARKS OF FORMER AMBASSADOR JAMES SHEN THAT THE REFERENCES TO ARMS SALE IN THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED OR CONCRETE. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS TO TAIWAN.

4. COMMENT: THE PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA CLEARLY HIGHLIGHTED THE NEWS ABOUT THE SIGNING OF THE LOA'S IN ORDER TO PROVIDE REASSURANCE ABOUT U.S. CONTINUING IN ITS ARMS SUPPLY ROLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN BRIEFINGS TO VISITING STAFFERS, GONT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SHARP IN THEIR CRITICISM OF THE USG FOR NOT MOVING AHEAD ON WEAPON SUPPLY SINCE DECEMBER 15, AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT SOME JOURNALISTS SUCH AS PAO HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF NEW REQUESTS IN 1979 AND THE CONTINUING CONCERN HERE THAT FOLLOWING JANUARY 1 THE U.S. MAY BE LESS FORTHCOMING IN APPROVALS THAN THE GONT WOULD LIKE. CROSS

EOT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 10/25/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH: REASON
ENDORSE EXISTING
DECLASSIFIED
RELEASE DATE

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL